

education, health, nutrition, social services to low-income children and their families. It is one of the most important investments that we can make to make sure our children have the greatest opportunities to succeed.

It is particularly important and crucial to my hometown of Flint, Michigan, where early childhood education is the most important thing we can do to help children mitigate the effects of lead exposure.

I am really proud of the school districts in Michigan who host this incredible program and provide wrap-around services to children and to their parents.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the teachers, the workers, and the volunteers who support our Head Start kids every day.

To keep Head Start working, we have to fully fund this program in Congress. Support for Head Start is bipartisan. We need to continue that. We need to make sure that we fully fund this program.

I celebrate the success of Head Start. We ought to make sure that every child that seeks that sort of early childhood education has an opportunity to have it.

#### HONORING BOB MAXWELL

(Mr. WALDEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the life of an American hero who I was honored to call my friend, Bob Maxwell of Bend, Oregon, who passed away last weekend at the age of 98.

Bob Maxwell represented the best of what Oregon and America had to offer. Bob was the oldest living Medal of Honor recipient in our country, and his gallantry was well known.

On the night of September 7, 1944, in France, Bob Maxwell threw his unprotected body on top of a German hand grenade to protect the lives of his comrades in World War II.

This unhesitating selflessness earned Bob Maxwell America's highest military honor. It earned him his second Silver Star, a second Purple Heart, and a Bronze Star.

For those who had the pleasure of knowing Bob, as I did, they know that his bravery and heroism were only matched by his kindness, his warmth, his sense of humor, and his humility.

Bob once said of his Medal of Honor: "I am not wearing the medal for any personal deeds. I am wearing it because it represents all the casualties we had in the war. It represents those who were killed defending their country and the ideals that they believed in."

Like his fellow soldiers, Bob's service will forever be cherished in the country that he sacrificed so much to protect.

Bob's legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of everyone he interacted with, and especially in his community in central Oregon, where Bob Maxwell was a pillar.

To the entire Maxwell family, Mylene and I send our heartfelt condolences and prayers during this difficult time of loss.

#### URGENT NEED FOR INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

(Mr. DELGADO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Infrastructure Week and call attention to the urgent need for investment in rural areas like mine in upstate New York.

As an example, every time I am home in my district, I hear from folks about the need to invest in infrastructure to help our family farmers succeed.

When farmers drive their livestock or dairy products down to New York City or the immediately surrounding areas, they need bridges and roads they can rely on, structures that can carry product without potholes or fear of collapse.

But infrastructure does not just mean bridges, roads, and seaports. It means access to markets through high-speed internet.

Astoundingly, 25 million Americans lack rural broadband. This means 25 million Americans who own small businesses, operate small farms, want to apply for college online, or do homework, or access lifesaving medicine cannot, because they lack internet access.

This week, I was proud to launch, with the leadership of Whip CLYBURN, a task force on rural broadband.

I am ready to partner with folks on both sides of the aisle to address the need to rebuild our infrastructure and access broadband both in upstate New York and across the country.

Let's get this done.

#### MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, May is Mental Health Month, a time when we are encouraged to break down the stigmas that surround mental health.

Normalizing conversations about depression, anxiety, and other conditions will help those affected by mental illness seek the quality care that they need and deserve.

One group that is overwhelmingly impacted by mental health disorders is veterans.

Unfortunately, we know that about 22 veterans commit suicide each and every day.

Congress understands how dire the situation has become and is working diligently to find a solution. Fortunately, we have made progress over the past few years.

Last year's passage of the VA Mission Act significantly increased the

care available to our veterans, ensuring they have access to a medical professional before resorting to suicide.

This is a step in the right direction, but more can certainly be done.

These men and women answer the call of duty, and as a Nation, we must care for them when they return home.

Until veteran suicide rates dwindle to zero, I will continue to work with my colleagues to support veterans' mental health programs.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, May 16, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
The Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 16, 2019, at 9:54 a.m.:

Appointment:  
Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

With best wishes, I am,  
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

#### MARKETING AND OUTREACH RESTORATION TO EMPOWER HEALTH EDUCATION ACT OF 2019

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous material on H.R. 987, the Strengthening Health Care and Lowering Prescription Drug Costs Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TRONE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 377 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 987.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

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##### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 987) to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide for Federal Exchange outreach and educational activities, with Mr. LANGEVIN in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.